

First larval food-plant of *Agrochola lactiflora* Drdt. in Turkey (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae)

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In this short note, the first larval food-plant of the noctuid species *Agrochola* (*Alpichola*) *lactiflora* (Draudt,1934) is recorded. Illustrations of the last instar of the larva, pupa, emerged adult, larval food-plant and habitat of the species are given with brief information on the development and collecting record.

In species, the *Noctuidae* is the richest family of the Lepidoptera of Turkey. It is represented by 1226 species among the 5164 known species in Turkey, with 23.74% (Koçak & Kemal, 2007; Info-System of the Cesa).¹ Noctuids are also very important group from the agricultural standpoint. But yet, published information about the development stages, and larval food-plants of the species are still lacking.

This species was described by Draudt in 1934 with the name combination “*Amathes lactiflora*” from Diyarbakır (South East Turkey). Currently, the name is considered as valid of the species in the subgenus *Alpichola* Ronkay,1984 in the genus *Agrochola* Hübner,[1821].

In earlier publications, distribution of the species is considered from Macedonia, Greece, Albania to Turkey and Libanon. Pinker (1956) described the early stages of the species using the material collected from Ochrid (Macedonia) and reported the larval food-plants as *Amygdalus*, *Prunus*, *Crataegus* (*Rosaceae*), *Salix* (*Salicaceae*). Macedonian populations of *lactiflora* was described by Dufay in 1975 as a different subspecies called *wautieri*. Currently, the taxon of *wautieri* is considered by some authors as bona species.

¹ Info-system Cesa: <http://www.cesa-tr.org/Infos.htm>

Under these circumstances, larval food-plant of asiatic *lactiflora* remains unknown (Özkol,2008).²

In early June of 2008, during a collaborative field study (Fig. 1), the authors found some caterpillars of *Noctuidae*, *Lycaenidae*, and *Tortricidae* on the plant *Rheum ribes* (*Polygalaceae*) (Fig. 2) at Ereğ Mount, Sarnaç, 2100m high above sea-level. Tortricid larvae emerged as a species of *Cnephasia*. One Noctuid caterpillar was determined as *Xylena exsoleta* and published recently (Kemal, Özkol & Kayci,2008).³

The caterpillar of the noctuid species under discussion captured on 2nd June (Figs. 3-4). A long pre-pupa stage was observed from 11 June to 7 September. Pupal stage continued about a month (Fig.5). Adult moth emerged on 9th October, 2008 under the laboratory condition (Fig. 6).

Rheum ribes is recorded here as the first larval food-plant of *Agrochola lactiflora* (Drdt.) to the science.

Necessary illustrations are given below:



Fig. 1 – Habitat of *Agrochola lactiflora* (Drdt.), Ereğ Mount Sarnaç 2100m, 2. 6. 2008, photo M.Kemal (Cesa).

² It is interesting that in the online webpages “Hosts- a Database of World’s Lepidopteran Hostplants”, hostplant of neither *lactiflora* Drdt., nor *wautieri* Dufay is reported! <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/jdsml/research-curation/research/projects/hostplants/index.dsml>

³ Kemal,M. & Özkol,H. & L.Kayci, 2008, Xylena Ochsenheimer in East Turkey with new provincial records and larval food-plants (Noctuidae, Lepidoptera). Cent. ent. Stud., Misc. Pap. 139-140: 10-14, 12 figs.



Fig. 2 – *Rheum ribes* (Polygalaceae), food-plant of *Agrochola lactiflora* (Drdt.) from Ereğ Dağı Sarnac 2100m, 2. 6. 2008. Photo M.Kemal (Cesa)



Fig. 3 – 4th instar of the caterpillar on *Rheum ribes*, Ereğ Dağı Sarnac 2100m, 2. 6. 2008. Photo M.Kemal (Cesa)



Fig. 4 – Last instar of the caterpillar on *Rheum ribes* in the laboratory, 11. 6. 2008. Photo M.Kemal (Cesa)



Fig. 5 – Pupa of *Agrochola lactiflora* (Drdt.) on *Rheum ribes* in the laboratory, 7. 9. 2008. Photo M.Kemal (Cesa)



Fig. 6 – Emerged moth and pupal skin of *Agrochola lactiflora* (Drdt.) on *Rheum ribes* in the laboratory, 9. 10. 2008.
Photo M.Kemal (Cesa)

Literature

Koçak, A.Ö., Kemal, M., 2007. Revised and Annotated Checklist of the Lepidoptera of Turkey. *Priamus Suppl.*, 8: 1-151.

Özkol, H., 2008, *Van Gölü Havzası Noctuinae, Hadeninae, Cucullinae, Acronictinae, Bryophilinae Faunası ve Ekolojisi Üzerine Araştırmalar (Noctuidae, Lepidoptera).* 400 s., 14 Tablo [in print].

Pinker, R., 1956, Beschreibung der Raupen einiger pontischer und mediterraner Heteroceren. *Z. wien. ent. Ges.* 41 (10): 265-270, Taf.



Announcement of the Short Documentary Films of the Cesa

Within the publication program of the Cesa, the following issues of the *Iconographia Insectorum* (Series A) and *Iconographia Arachnidorum* (Series A) were published.

The titles of the Mpeg films and their URL addresses are as follows:

Acraea natalica in Butterflies of South Africa (September 3, 2008)

Life of butterflies at Medike in Soutpansberg Mountains. *Acraea natalica* during feeding nectar on the flower, mpeg2, 0.39 minutes.

by Muhabbet Kemal

<http://www.archive.org/details/AcraeaNatalicaInButterfliesOfSouthAfrica>

Biodiversity of Soutpansberg Mountains, the South Africa I. Butterflies, Behaviours of some Acraea species (September 25, 2008)

Behaviours of some *Acraea* species. *Iconographia Insectorum* (Series A) A Documentary Video Records in Nature for Scientific Purpose by the CESA, mpeg2, 3.45 minutes.

by Muhabbet Kemal & Ahmet Ö.Koçak

<http://www.archive.org/details/BiodiversityOfSoutpansbergMountainTheSouthAfricaI.Butterflies>

1. A hunting Camel Spider at Catak, Van Province, East Turkey (Galeodidae, Solifugae).

Behaviours in the night.

Iconographia Arachnidorum Series A (Nr.1) by the Cesa (October 8, 2008), mpeg2, 2.09 minutes.

by Muhabbet Kemal

<http://www.archive.org/details/IconographiaArachnidorumSeriesABByTheCesa>

2. A Camel Spider at Kemaliye, Erzincan Province, East Turkey (Galeodidae, Solifugae).

Behaviours in the night.

Iconographia Arachnidorum Series A (Nr.2) by the Cesa (October 9, 2008), mpeg2, 2.06 minutes.

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<http://www.archive.org/details/IconographiaArachnidorumSeriesAnr.2ByTheCesa>

A Firefly at Mon Long Summit (December 21, 2005)

<http://www.archive.org/details/AFireflyatMonLongSummit>

A short film on the behaviour of a lampyrid species (*Coleoptera*), during a short visit to a view point of Doi Suthep (Mon Long Summit), Chiang Mai, North Thailand, mpeg2, 5.32 minutes.

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